

1936 Professional Typewriting Championship

Reported by A. A. Bowle

IT is always thrilling to hear the machine-gun "rat-a-tat-tat" of the typewriter as the professional operators get into action for the coveted world championships. Their course of training is no less severe than that of the professional athletes—or the Olympic champions. They must be in "top-notch" physical condition to be able to pound a typewriter for a solid hour with strokes as even as the type in this magazine and with fewer typographical errors than you can find in your daily newspaper.

A far greater degree of precision is required of the expert typewriter operator for championship honors than is required of the athlete. A fast runner, for instance, in covering a course for the second time will not place his feet exactly the same as he did on the first circuit, but he can still be in front and win his race.

The typewriter operator, however, must strike each separate key exactly, and with the same force, each time he strikes it. He must perform each operation in the same way every time he does it, perhaps more than eight thousand times in the hour, if he hopes even to place with the champions. There can be no change of movement or position, for a deviation of even a fraction of an inch surely will result in errors. And every error chalks up a penalty of ten words against the contestant. Real experts must make more than forty thousand precise strokes to win a championship.

It is interesting, therefore, to report that this year we were privileged, on two occasions, to witness "mortal combat" in this realm of speed and sport, once in the United States and once in Canada. Chicago, Illinois, was the scene of the first contest, conducted on August 25 under the auspices of the International Commercial Schools Contests Committee at the Hotel Sherman, W. C. Maxwell, of Hinsdale, Illinois, officiating. For the second time, Albert Tangora won the professional event and the gold trophy,

writing for the hour at the remarkable rate of 135 net words a minute. This makes Tangora's sixth professional championship. Cortez W. Peters, negro contestant from Washington, D. C., was second with 133 net words a minute to his credit.

The amateur event was won by Norman Saksvig, who wrote for the half hour at the rate of 102 net words a minute.

One of the outstanding features of the conduct of this contest was the method of checking pages. As a contestant filled a page and threw it to the floor, it was picked up and relayed to the checkers who carried on their checking as the contest progressed. The results were posted on a bulletin board in full view of the audience as the minutes rolled by.

The contest in Canada was held in conjunction with the Canadian professional, amateur, school novice, and school "open" typewriting championships under the auspices of the Canadian National Exhibition, in the Coliseum, at Toronto, on September 2. George L. Hossfield was the winner of the world's professional event held here. He was awarded \$1,000 for his splendid performance of 131 net words a minute. Nine times Hossfield has won the professional championship. Second place went to Barney Stapert, who collected the \$500 offered, with a speed of 129 net words a minute, and Cortez W. Peters wrote 125 net words a minute, for third place.

Evidently, expert typists are like expert athletes. They find their skill is affected by the conditions existing at the time of the race. The heavy going of a wet track may be likened to the heavy going of difficult combinations or the inclusion of many unusual words. The possibilities of making records are governed by the conditions of the track, the direction of the wind, and the temperature, just as the typing records depend, sometimes, upon the ease of the matter and the ventilation of the room!

The competition this year was keener than ever and the fact that Mr. Tangora did not compete in the event in Canada and Mr. Hossfield did not compete in the Chicago contest did not militate against either of them doing his level best in the contest in which he did take part. These two are old rivals at the game, and when they meet they give no quarter. Each puts all his power, energy, and concentration on the job. Their styles of operation are somewhat different, but to watch either of them is an inspiration, and teachers can gain many pointers that will aid them in their teaching of the art from a close study of their technique. Congratulations to these wizards of the typewriter!

The Canadian Professional Typewriting Championship was won by a resident of Toronto, Ontario, Irma Wright, who reached 118 net words a minute, two words a minute faster than the record she made in the 1928 World's Amateur Typewriting Championship contest in Sacramento, California. Second and third places were also won by "home-town" girls—Ann L. Kreutzer, 107 net words a minute, and Lucy Harding, 102 net words a minute, for the half hour's writing. First and second place winners received \$500 and \$250, respectively.

Following is a copy of the official reports of the contests held in Chicago, Illinois, and Toronto, Ontario.

OFFICIAL 1936 WORLD'S GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP TYPEWRITING CONTEST

Held under the auspices of the International Commercial Schools Contest Program, August 25, Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Illinois.

Professional Group, one hour of writing; Amateur Group, one-half hour of writing. Unfamiliar copy.

<i>Contestant</i>	<i>Gross Words</i>	<i>Errors</i>	<i>Net Words a Minute</i>
Albert Tangora	8659	54	135
Cortez W. Peters	8339	38	133
Norman Saksvig*	7260	166	93

*Winner of Amateur Event—102 Words a Minute.

INTERNATIONAL TYPEWRITING CONTEST

Held under the auspices of the Canadian National Exhibition, September 2, Toronto, Canada.

World's Professional Group, one hour of writing; Canadian Professionals and Amateurs, thirty minutes of writing; School Novice and School "Open," fifteen minutes of writing. Unfamiliar copy.

WORLD'S PROFESSIONAL TYPEWRITING CHAMPIONSHIP.

<i>Contestant</i>	<i>Gross Words</i>	<i>Errors</i>	<i>Net Words a Minute</i>
George L. Hossfield	8137	26	131
Barney Stapert	8102	34	129
Cortez W. Peters	7771	27	125

CANADIAN PROFESSIONAL TYPEWRITING CHAMPIONSHIP.

<i>Contestant</i>	<i>Gross Words</i>	<i>Errors</i>	<i>Net Words a Minute</i>
Irma Wright	3698	17	118
Ann L. Kreutzer	3418	20	107
Lucy Harding	3194	13	102

CANADIAN AMATEUR TYPEWRITING CHAMPIONSHIP.

<i>Contestant</i>	<i>Gross Words</i>	<i>Errors</i>	<i>Net Words a Minute</i>
Gladys Mandley	3399	20	107
Shirley Grant	3027	11	97
Frances R. O'Donnell	3135	25	96

The official report of the results of the two school events was not available at the time of going to press. This report will appear in the November issue.

Tri-State Meets

• THE fall meeting of the Tri-State Commercial Education Association will be held October 9 and 10 in the Henry Clay Frick Training School, Pittsburgh. George R. Fisher, of the Langley High School, Pittsburgh, is president of the Association.

Plans are being completed by a committee under the chairmanship of Karl M. Maukert, principal of Duffs-Iron City College, for a gala evening of dancing, cards, and a general get-together, at the college, 424 Duquesne Way, Pittsburgh.

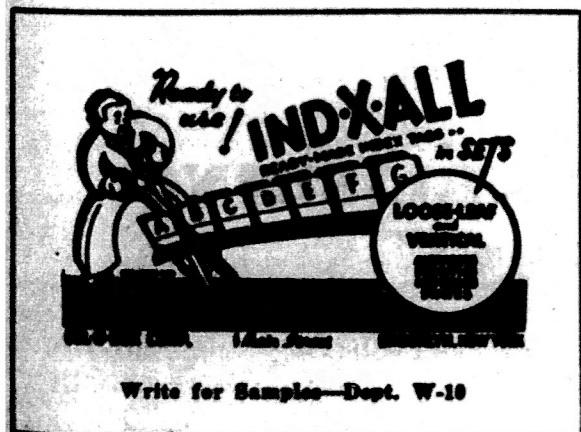
The general theme for the meetings will be "Business Education for All?"

The program of the Saturday morning sessions is an inducement to attend because of the choice of outstanding speakers for the following sectional meetings:

Vocational Guidance; Administration of Commercial Education; Salesmanship; Business Correspondence; General Business Education; Shorthand; Commercial Law; Economics; Business Arithmetic; Bookkeeping; Penmanship; Typewriting; Extra-Curricular Activities.

The Saturday afternoon session on typewriting will feature E. W. Harrison and the students of the John Hay High School, Cleveland, who won the first grand prize school trophy in the 1936 International Commercial Schools Contest held in Chicago. The shorthand division will be conducted by Katherine Bracher, head of the typewriting department of Gregg College, Chicago.

This convention always offers a splendid opportunity for the commercial teachers in the district to establish contacts and to renew friendships with others interested in commercial work and to obtain new ideas and methods for classroom work.



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E. C. T. A. Plans for 1937

• WE have emerged from a great depression period and now stand on the threshold of a newer life, fraught with implications of deep significance. No period of our national life ever pulsed so violently, no era was ever confronted with such grave problems, touching every phase of individual as well as national existence. Our economic, social, and governmental viewpoints have been radically changed, and the process of metamorphosis is not yet over. The call for sound, intelligent leadership was never so insistent or urgent.

Readjustment is the order of the day, and in this process of readjustment every teacher in the land must be prepared to render effective service. Education, now as always, must concentrate its efforts upon the development not only of worthy leaders but also of properly equipped individuals, capable of initiating and making any required adjustments. It must blaze the trail in the readjustments involved, not lag behind them. The world needs leaders; there will always be followers.

As its contribution, the Eastern Commercial Teachers' Association is preparing a series of discussions on "Foundations of Vocational Testing in Business Education," to take place at the annual spring convention of the Association in Boston, March 24, 25, 26, and 27, 1937.

Outstanding personalities in business and leaders in commercial education will cooperate to bring to progressive teachers of commercial subjects their views as to what types and degrees of skill, what informational background, and what social understandings, characteristics, and practices business must now demand.

The officers of the Eastern Commercial Teachers' Association feel assured of your approval and generous support of the program they are arranging. They take this opportunity to extend to all persons interested in commercial education their greetings and best wishes for a school year rich in achievement.—*Nathaniel Altholz, President, Eastern Commercial Teachers' Association, and Director of Commercial Education, New York City Public Schools.*